

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /067 W  
-----141941Z 025139 /44

R 141447Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4048  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: ECON ELAB PFOR PINT SZ  
SUBJ: REFERENDUM MAR 12-13

1. SUMMARY: SWISS VOTERS HAVE REJECTED THE THREE INITIATIVES ON FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN SWITZERLAND; ON A QUOTA FOR SWISS NATURALIZATION, AND ON THE REQUIREMENT THAT ALL TREATIES INCLUDING THOSE IN FORCE BY SUBMITTED TO POPULAR REFERENDUM - BY MAJORITIES OF 3 OR 2 TO 1. 65 PERCENT OF THOSE VOTING VOTED FOR ADOPTION OF THE COUNTERPROPOSAL ON TREATIES PROPOSED BY THE GOVT (PARA 5, REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN 1970, 46 PERCENT OF THOSE VOTING VOTED FOR SCHWARZENBACH'S FIRST INITIATIVE WHICH WOULD HAVE IMPOSED STRICT LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS PERMITTED TO LIVE IN SWITZERLAND. HE HAS TRIED TWICE SINCE, IN 1974, AND AGAIN THIS YEAR. IN 1974, 34 PERCENT OF THOSE VOTING SUPPORTED HIM; IN 1977, 29 PERCENT. 45 PERCENT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE VOTED ON THIS INITIATIVE; A MUCH LARGER PERCENTAGE PARTICIPATED  
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IN THE EARLIER VOTING (ABOUT 70 PERCENT).

3. THE INITIATIVE ON NATURALIZATION WAS DEFEATED BY A MARGIN OF 2 TO 1; 66 PERCENT VOTED NO, 34 PERCENT YES.

4. THE INITIATIVE ON TREATIES WAS DEFEATED BY 3 TO 1; 77 PERCENT VOTED NO, 23 PERCENT YES. THE COUNTERPROPOSAL,

DESCRIBED REFTTEL, WON BY 65 PERCENT TO 34 PERCENT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SWISS HAVE ONCE AGAIN REJECTED SCHWARZENBACH'S AND OEHLER'S APPEALS TO CHAUVINISM. IRONICALLY, TASS WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE THE SWISS, STATING THAT "THIS IS THE THIRD UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY RIGHTIST FORCES TO DRIVE THE WORKING CLASS INTO A CORNER THROUGH THE USE OF NATIONAL DISCRIMINATION". DAVIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VOTING, NATURALIZATION, REFERENDUMS, FOREIGN WORKERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BERN01053  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** ECON, ELAB, PFOR, PINT, SZ  
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**Review Markings:**  
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